

Montana DPHHS Cottage Food Operation F.A.Q.

Are Cottage Food Operations inspected?

No, Cottage Food Operations are not inspected, unless there is a complaint or illness investigation.

Where can I find more information about Cottage Food Operations?

All current information can be found on our cottage food website or you can contact your local health department. <http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/FCSS/cottagefood>

How much does it cost to register a Cottage Food Operation?

\$40, however, if the operation moves, recipes change, or additional recipes and labels are submitted, the operator will be required to register and pay the fee again.

How many foods can I register at one time?

The operator may register as many products as they like. Individual form attachments may be downloaded from our website, for each additional product, and submitted with your application.

If I register more than one food is that more than the \$40 registration fee?

No, there is no increase to the fee and there are no limitations to the number of products that may be registered by a Cottage Food Operation. Additional products registered at a later time will require another registration with a fee of \$40.

What kinds of food can I produce?

Non-potentially hazardous foods (basically foods that do not require time or temperature controls for food safety), that have been approved by the Department, may be produced by a Cottage Food Operation. A list of approved foods may be found in the guidance document on the cottage food website.

Do I have to register every year?

No, the operator only has to register once, unless the operation moves, or products are added or changed.

Can I make my own labels?

Yes, labeling requirements are listed on Attachment 4 (Labeling).

How do I list my ingredients?

Ingredients must be listed by order of weight, heaviest to lightest.

How do I find the metric equivalent of the weight or volume of my final product?

Use an online conversion site, or use the following conversion factors:

- 1 Ounce = 28.349 Grams
- 1 Pound = 453.59237 Grams
- 1 US Fluid Ounce = 29.5735 Milliliters
- 1 US Gallon = 3.785 Liters